

**Cranston Public Schools**  
**2012 Summer Reading Suggestions**  
**Middle School**

\*     **2013**     nominee     **Rhode Island Teen Book Award**  
\*\*    **2012**     winner     **Rhode Island Teen Book Award**

**FICTION**

**Asher, Jay**                   **Thirteen Reasons Why**  
High school student Clay Jensen receives a box in the mail containing seven cassette tapes recorded by his crush, Hannah Baker, who committed suicide, and spends a bewildering and heartbreaking night crisscrossing their town, listening to Hannah's voice recounting the events leading up to her death.

**Carter, Ally**               **Heist Society**  
A group of teens use their combined talents to re-steal several priceless paintings and save Kat's father, himself an international art thief, from a vengeful collector.

**Cashore, Kristin**       **Graceling**  
Born with the Grace of strength and speed, Katsa is an assassin. Her uncle, King Randa, exploits her for his own purposes, but she wants to use her skills for nobler pursuits.

**Chmakova, Svetlana.**   **Nightschool Series**  
Schools may lock up for the night, but class is in session for a different set of students. In the Nightschool, vampires, werewolves, and weirns learn everything from calculus to spell casting.

**\*\*Condie, Ally**           **Matched**  
Cassia always trusted the Society to make the right choices for her, but she begins to question just how *perfect* her world really is when she notices things are not what they seem.

**Fisher, Catherine**       **Incarceron Series**  
Finn searches for his true identity while trapped in the massive prison world of Incarceron.

**Gantos, Jack**                   **Dead End in Norvelt**  
In the historic town of Norvelt, Pennsylvania, twelve-year-old Jack Gantos spends the summer of 1962 grounded for various offenses until he is assigned to help an elderly neighbor with a most unusual chore involving the newly dead, molten wax, twisted promises, Girl Scout cookies, underage driving, lessons from history, typewriting, and countless bloody noses.

**Greenwald, Lisa**           **My Life in Pink and Green**  
When the family's drugstore is failing, seventh-grader Lucy uses her problem-solving talents to come up with a solution that might resuscitate the business and help the environment.

**Hahn, Mary Downing**   **Closed for the Season**  
When thirteen-year-old Logan and his family move into a run-down old house in rural Virginia, he discovers that a woman was murdered there and becomes involved with his neighbor Arthur in a dangerous investigation to try to uncover the killer.

**\*Hobbs, Will**               **Take Me to the River**  
Fourteen-year-old Dylan arrives in a West Texas ghost town to meet his uncle and his cousin Rio for a canoe trip down the Rio Grande. Though his uncle has left for Alaska, he and Rio undertake the hazardous journey on their own.

**\*Johnson, Maureen**       **The Name of the Star**  
Flip-flop-wearing, Cheez Whiz-eating 18-year-old Rory has left her Louisiana home to spend her senior year at an esteemed London school, Wexford. Her arrival, though, is met by a series of grisly murders precisely mirroring the 1888 killings of Jack the Ripper—and Wexner is right in the center of Saucy Jack's stomping grounds.

**Kaye, Marilyn**           **Gifted Series**  
Featuring nine teens that are "gifted", these "gifts" include things like being invisible, reading minds, and seeing future events before they happen.

**\*Lu, Marie**               **Legend**  
In a dark future, when North America has split into two warring nations, fifteen-year-olds Day, a famous criminal, and prodigy June, the brilliant soldier hired to capture him, discover that they have a common enemy.

**Myers, Walter Dean**

**Lockdown**

Teenage Reese, serving time at a juvenile detention facility, gets a lesson in making it through hard times from an unlikely friend with a harrowing past.

**Neri, G.**

**Southside Shorty**

In this graphic novel based on a true story, Roger tries to understand why his classmate joined a gang and shot a girl in their neighborhood before being killed himself.

**Nielsen-Fernlund, Susin**

**Word Nerd**

Ambrose is a magnet for bullies, making his mother decide to homeschool him. He then befriends the neighborhood ex-con and joins a scrabble club ... all behind his mother's back!

**O'Brien, Caragh**

**Birthmarked**

Sixteen-year-old Gaia Stone, a midwife who dutifully delivers at least three babies a month and hands them over to the Enclave, a community within walls where the children are adopted and live with conveniences which are not available to the outside world, begins to question her loyalty to the group after her mother is brutally taken away from her by the people she serves.

**\*O'Neal, Eilis**

**The False Princess**

For sixteen years, Nalia has been raised as the princess of Thorvaldor, but one day she learns that her real name is Sinda and that she is part of a complicated plot that would change the future of her country forever.

**\*Roth, Veronica**

**Divergent**

In a future Chicago, sixteen-year-old Beatrice Prior must choose among five predetermined factions to define her identity for the rest of her life, a decision made more difficult when she discovers that she is an anomaly who does not fit into any one group, and that the society she lives in is not perfect after all.

**\*Schmidt, Gary**

**Okay for Now**

Fourteen-year-old Doug Swieteck faces many challenges, including an abusive father, a brother traumatized by Vietnam, suspicious teachers and police officers, and isolation, but when he meets a girl known as Lil Spicer, he develops a close relationship with her and finds a safe place at the local library.

**\*Schreiber, Joe**

**Au Revoir, Crazy European Chick**

When high school senior Perry Stormaire's parents make him take the family's awkward Lithuanian exchange student, Gobi, to the prom, he winds up as part of a gorgeous trained assassin's plan to kill five targets by daybreak, with the skilled killer none other than formerly frumpy Gobi.

**\*Schulman, Polly**

**The Grimm Legacy**

New York high school student Elizabeth gets an after-school job as a page at the "New-York Circulating Material Repository," and when she gains coveted access to its Grimm Collection of magical objects, she and the other pages are drawn into a series of frightening adventures involving mythical creatures and stolen goods.

**Sedgewick, Marcus**

**Revolver**

His family's Arctic Circle cabin is Sig Andersson's entire world--a secure one until the day his father dies and the menacing Gunther Wolff arrives, demanding the gold Sig's father owes him from the Alaska Gold Rush.

**\*Selznick, Brian**

**Wonderstruck: A novel in words and pictures**

Relates the stories of twelve-year-old Ben, who loses his mother and his hearing in a short time frame and decides to leave his Minnesota home in 1977 to seek the father he has never known in New York City; and Rose, who lives with her father but feels compelled to search for what is missing in her life.

**\*Sepetys, Ruta**

**Between Shades of Gray**

In 1941, fifteen-year-old Lina, her mother, and brother are pulled from their Lithuanian home by Soviet guards and sent to Siberia, where her father is sentenced to death in a prison camp while she fights for her life, vowing to honor her family and the thousands like hers by burying her story in a jar on Lithuanian soil.

**\*Sharenow, Robert**

**The Berlin Boxing Club**

Berlin in the 1930s, during the rise of Nazism, is the dramatic setting for this novel told through the immediate first-person narrative of teenage Karl.

**Stiefvater , Maggie**                      **Wolves of Mercy Falls Series**  
Girl + Werewolf = True Love.

**Strasser, Todd**                      **If I Grow Up**  
Growing up in the inner-city projects, DeShawn is reluctantly forced into the gang world by circumstances beyond his control.

**Stratton, Allan**                      **Borderline**  
When Sami's Iranian dad is accused of involvement in a terrorist plot, Sami risks his own life to uncover the truth despite the fact that they don't get along.

**TenNapel, Doug**                      **Ghostopolis**  
A boy who is accidentally whisked into the spirit world discovers he has special powers there. But will they help him get back home?

**\*Yang, Gene Luen**                      **Level Up**  
Dennis Ouyang is visited by four angels who prompt him to give up his dream of playing video games professionally and pursue a medical degree as his late father wanted, but a crisis reveals the true nature of the angels and brings Dennis to a crossroads in his path to the future.

**\*Van Draanen, Wendelin**                      **The Running Dream**  
When a school bus accident leaves sixteen-year-old Jessica an amputee, she returns to school with a prosthetic limb and her track team finds a wonderful way to help rekindle her dream of running again.

### **SUGGESTED FICTION AUTHORS**

We also recommend titles by the following authors:

Cabot, Meg	Dessen, Sarah	Haddix, Margaret Peterson	Han, Jenny
Hiaasen, Carl	Korman, Gordon	Lowry, Lois	Lupica, Mike
Myers, Walter Dean	Riordan, Rick	Sonenblick, Jordan	Spinelli, Jerry

### **NON-FICTION**

**Freedman, Russell**                      **The War to End All Wars: World War I**

Recounts the origins, meaning, and legacy of history's first "total" war that spanned the globe and was characterized by the horrors and brutality of trench warfare.

**Lake, Matthew**                      **Weird U.S.: a freaky field trip through the 50 States**  
Describes and directs travelers to roadside oddities, personalized properties, strange beasts, legendary spots, places related to local heroes and villains, and sites of unexplained phenomena throughout fifty states.

**Lange, Karen**                      **Nevermore: a Photobiography of Edgar Allan Poe**  
A photographic biography chronicling the life of Romantic author and poet Edgar Allan Poe, with images capturing key moments and phases in his life and highlighting his literary influence.

**O'Meara, Stephen James**                      **Are You Afraid Yet? The Science Behind Scary Stuff**

Uncover the scientific truth about the strange and unusual.

**Regan, Sally**                      **The Vampire Book**  
All you ever wanted to know about vampires

**Rubalcaba, Jill**                      **Every bone tells a story : Hominin discoveries, deductions, and debates**  
Discusses the unearthing of four hominins--Turkana Boy, Lapedo Child, Kennewick Man, and Iceman--and the ways that new technology has helped archaeological specialists to refine their theories and change their view of the past.

**Schanzer, Rosalyn**                      **Witches: the absolutely true tale of disaster in Salem**

An illustrated history of the witch hunts that took place in colonial-era Salem, Massachusetts, featuring primary source accounts, and describing the victims, accused witches, corrupt officials, and impact of the events on society.

**Stutts, Ryan**                      **The Skateboarding Field Manual**  
Evolution, tricks, etiquette and dealing with the law.